

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 7, 2004

For immediate release

1. **Public comment sought on three Iowa lake water quality plans**
2. **Huge turnout for third Upper Iowa River Cleanup**
3. **DNR enforcement actions**

PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON THREE IOWA LAKE WATER QUALITY PLANS

DES MOINES — Plans for improving water quality at Swan Lake in Carroll County, Beed's Lake in Franklin County and Silver Lake in Palo Alto County will be discussed at a series of public meetings Oct. 12-20. Comments on the draft plans will be accepted until November.

A draft TMDL — or Total Maximum Daily Load — has been developed for each of these lakes. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use, such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or being used as a drinking water supply.

TMDLs also include plans on how water quality can be improved through conservation efforts in the respective watersheds. After receiving public comments, the TMDL will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

Swan Lake

Tuesday, Oct. 12

9:00 a.m.

Swan Lake east side shelter house

Beed's Lake

Thursday, Oct. 14

7 p.m.

First National Bank of Hampton, 211 1st St. NW

Silver Lake (Palo Alto)

Wednesday, Oct. 20

1:00 p.m.

Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center, 3259 355th Ave, Ruthven

A copy of the draft TMDLs can be obtained and comments made using the following resources:

- Internet: www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html
- E-mail: chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us
- Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791
- Mail: Chris Van Gorp, Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319

For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.

#

HUGE TURNOUT FOR THIRD UPPER IOWA RIVER CLEANUP

NOTE TO EDITORS: Digital pictures available on request. Please e-mail: michael.dhar@dnr.state.ia.us

CRESCO — Framed by towering yellow cliffs and a clear blue sky, 75 volunteers set out Saturday, Sept. 25 for the third annual Upper Iowa River Cleanup.

The cleanup sends environmentally conscious volunteers out with canoes and trash bags to remove refuse from the river. This year, two groups covered about 10 miles of river each and collected two pickup loads of garbage.

“As far as the amount of stuff cleaned up, it went great,” said Richard Kittelson, program coordinator and a forester with Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC and D). “We got a lot of stuff, just piles of it.”

Volunteers dug 10 tires, a clothes dryer, a microwave, a steel farm gate, five garbage bags full of bottles and cans, an upholstered chair and much more from the river. Logging 965 hours worth of labor and travel time, the volunteers collected a total of 1,300 pounds of trash.

“This is the best river in the state because the bluffs are just so beautiful and the water is just so clear,” said volunteer Robin Fortney of Des Moines. “I think river cleanups are a really wonderful way to get to know a river. And you feel good when it’s all over.”

The Upper Iowa program began two years ago when Chimney Rock Canoe Rental and Campground owner/operator Deb Keefe collaborated with the Iowa DNR. This year’s turnout — including volunteers from four states — resulted from greater publicity and

cooperation from the Northeast Iowa RC and D, organizers said. The total dwarfed previous years, as only about 20 people joined each of the first two outings.

The turnout posed a unique challenge for planners and extended the length of the float to eight hours. Organizers are working on involving more local outfitters and support staff next year, tackling a shorter section of river and providing signs along the route.

This year's volunteers included roughly 30 college students from Iowa State University and Luther College, as well as several participants from this summer's Project A.W.A.R.E., a weeklong cleanup of the Des Moines River watershed. Volunteers from the Palisades Chapter of the Isaac Walton League also attended.

The event ended with a potluck dinner and a prize drawing—prizes included a child's rod and reel, sweatshirts, a multi-purpose tool, and local pizza and sandwich coupons.

Event donors:

Food & Drink:

Casey's of Decorah, Fareway Grocery, K&S Grocery, Kwik Trip of Decorah, Mike's Fruit Market, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., Subway of Decorah, Wal-Mart of Decorah

Door Prizes:

Cabela's of Praire du Chien, Fred Carlson Co., Happy Joe's Pizza & Ice Cream Parlor, Mabe's Pizza, NE IA Resource Conservation & Development, Inc, Norby's of Decorah, O'Henry's Stitches & Prints of Cresco, Oneota Lanes, Ozzie's Outdoors, Pizza Hut of Decorah, RV Sales & Service of Cresco, Subway of Cresco, Upper Iowa Marine, Valley Inn of Kendallville, Wal-Mart of Decorah

Recyclers:

Clayton County Recycling, Goodyear Decorah Tire, McCaffrey Scrap Metal, Rockweiler's Appliance, Spretum Recycling

For more information, contact Richard Kittelson at (563) 864-7112 or at kittelson@netins.net or Merry Rankin at (515) 281-0878 or at merry.rankin@dnr.state.ia.us

#

DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- The City of Cedar Rapids was ordered to maintain all lift stations as to avoid or minimize wastewater bypassing, to promptly report all bypasses as required by rule and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The order is in regards to a May bypass to Hoosier

Creek.

- The City of Goose Lake was ordered to take all actions necessary to obtain construction approval and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the city constructing a public water supply well without a permit.
- Carl Sandgren, of Callender, was ordered to pay a penalty of \$1,500. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Granpa Pork, Inc., of Sutherland, was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan. The penalty has been paid.
- Teske Pork, L.L.C., of Eldora, was ordered to submit all fees necessary to complete its manure management plan and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Hogville Corporation, of St. Ansgar, was ordered to submit the remainder of filing and indemnity fees of its manure management plan and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Linn Grove Hatchery, Inc., of Linn Grove, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan and fees, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty.
- Charles Loutsch, of Le Mars, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fees, and a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Fritz Dirksen, of Le Mars, was ordered to submit a complete manure management plan (MMP) and fees, and a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to submit an MMP. The penalty has been paid.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us.